

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

(A) an internal combustion engine; and

5 (B) an exhaust gas purifying catalyst provided in an exhaust passageway of said internal combustion engine, said emission control system further including:

(a) a box body formed with an exhaust gas inlet and an exhaust gas outlet;

10 (b) a catalyst support incorporated into said box body; and

(c) a catalyst substance supported on said catalyst support,

15 wherein a part of said catalyst support of said exhaust gas purging catalyst is a low resistance area formed so that a gas flow resistance is lower than in other areas and disposed in such a position that a flow velocity of the exhaust gas flowing to said catalyst support is high.

20 2. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein said low resistance area is an area in which the gas flow resistance is set low by forming a notched portion in said catalyst support.

25 3. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said notched portion is formed in an exhaust gas inflow sided end

surface of said catalyst support.

4. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 3, wherein a portion,  
5 disposed more downstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

5. An exhaust emission control system of an internal  
10 combustion engine according to claim 2, wherein said notched portion is formed in an exhaust gas outflow sided end surface of said catalyst support.

6. An exhaust emission control system of an internal  
15 combustion engine according to claim 5, wherein a portion, disposed more upstream in the exhaust gas flow direction than said notched portion, of said catalyst support supports a larger quantity of catalyst substance than in other portions.

20 7. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to any one of claims 3 through 6, wherein a plurality of notched portions are formed.

8. An exhaust emission control system of an internal  
25 combustion engine according to any one of claims 3 through 7, wherein said notched portion takes an annular shape.

9. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to any one of claims 3 through 8, wherein said notched portion includes an exhaust gas guide passageway inclined.

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10. An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine according to claim 9, wherein said notched portion takes a conical shape.